

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

60

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:RANDERSON:AVW

APPROVED BY S/PRS:RANDERSON

S/S -FVORTIZ

----- 091509

P 222241Z OCT 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: EXTRACTS FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER OCTOBER 20

- PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR SECRETARY FROM S/PRS - ANDERSON

NO. 16

FOLLOWING ARE ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SALT FROM TRANSCRIPT OF ONE HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE BY SCHLESINGER AT PENTAGON ON OCTOBER 20.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THIS THING ABOUT SOVIET UNION, EVER SINCE ORIGINAL SALT TALKS BEGAN, THERE HAVE BEEN STORIES ALLEGING MAJOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN PENTAGON AND STATE DEPT OVER MAJOR ISSUES IN SALT TALKS. I WONDER IF YOU COULD DISCUSS DIFFERENCES. AND IF NOT, COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR VIEWS ON WHERE BACKFIRE BOMBER AND CRUISE MISSILE STAND IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS?

SCHLESINGER: I WILL NOT GET INTO ANY DETAIL WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC ITEMS INVOLVED IN SALT NEGOTIATION. LET ME SAY THESE ALLEGATIONS OF DIFFERENCES WHICH I HAVE READ IN NEWS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

PAPERS ARE A CONTINUAL SOURCE OF TITILLATION AROUND TOWN.

THE DIFFERENCE, OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE DIFFERENCES IN VIEW FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT DIFFERENCES AS REPORTED WIDELY ARE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.

WITH REGARD TO BACKFIRE ISSUE, I THINK THAT IN SOME RESPECTS THAT CONTINUES TO BE FUNDAMENTALLY AND ULTIMATELY A QUESTION OF THE IMAGE OF EQUALITY, AND POLITICAL ISSUE. I THINK THAT IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT BACKFIRE IN ALL PROBABILITY WAS INTENDED TO BE USED IN A PERIPHERAL ROLE. AND IT WAS SO DESIGNED. IT, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OUR INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES, DOES APPARENTLY HAVE CAPABILITY OF REACHING U. S. ON CERTAIN FLIGHTS MISSIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TREATED IN SOME WAY IN A DISCUSSION OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS.

I SHOULD EMPHASIZE FACT THAT U.S.G. HAS PRESENTED A POSITION TO SOVIET UNION. IT IS AN AGREED UPON POSITION. SO I THINK THAT FLAMBOYANT DESCRIPTIONS OF DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THAT PARTICULAR PERSPECTIVE IN MIND.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THE SALT TALKS AT AN IMPASSE?

SCHLESSINGER: NO, SIR.

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY REPLIES SINCE, ANY MOVEMENT SINCE SECRETARY GROMYKO WAS HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO?

SCHLESINGER: THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT, BUT WE ARE WAITING A REPLY FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

Q: IN THAT CONNECTION, MR. SECRETARY, BOTH BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILE WERE CONSIDERED RELATIVELY MINOR ISSUES LAST NOVEMBER. SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT PENTAGON HAS DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATED THEIR IMPORTANCE IN EFFECT TO UNDERMINE NEGOTIATIONS, AND PERHAPS POLICY OF DETENTE. IS THAT CASE. AND DOES PENTAGON REALLY WANT A NEW ARMS AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS?

SCHLESINGER: I THINK THAT THOSE REPORTS ARE MALICIOUS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

ABSOLUTELY FALSE. PENTAGON OF COURSE WANTS A NEW AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION. THERE IS NO PURPOSE IN BOTH SIDES PILING UP STRATEGIC ARMS.

ONCE AGAIN, WAY THAT WE MUST ACHIEVE THIS IS THROUGH NEGOTIATION OF AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT. WE CANNOT ACCEPT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS NOT EQUITABLE. AND SIMPLE PILING UP OF STRATEGIC ARMS ON BOTH SIDES

SERVES NO PURPOSE AT ALL. BUT WE CANNOT UNILATERALLY REFRAIN FROM IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR OWN ARMS IF SOVIET UNION IS FORGING AHEAD WITH ITS PROGRAM.

THE PURPOSE OF ARMS NEGOTIATIONS IS TO ESTABLISH CONSTRAINTS THAT ARE EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE ON BOTH SIDES. WE CERTAINLY WOULD WHOLLY ENDORSE PURPOSE -- THAT PURPOSE. IN FACT, NATIONAL SECURITY IS PROMOTED BY EQUITABLE ARMS AGREEMENTS WHICH SERVE PURPOSE OF STABILIZATION.

NOW YOU RAISED A QUESTION OF BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILE. CRUISE MISSILE WAS NOT INITIALLY CONSIDERED BY U.S.G. TO BE A SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. CRUISE MISSILE INDEED HAS BEEN A SUBJECT THAT WAS RAISED BY SOVIET UNION SUBSEQUENT TO VLADIVOSTOK. SO I DO NOT THINK THAT ANY JUST SURVEY OF RECORD WOULD SUGGEST THAT PENTAGON HAS RAISED THAT ISSUE. IT HAS RESPONDED IN INTERESTS OF LONG TERM DEFENSE POSTURE OF THE U.S. TO THAT ISSUE THAT WAS OTHERWISE RAISED.

WITH REGARD TO BACKFIRE BOMBER, I HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY WHAT PROBLEM IS. THAT A WEAPON SYSTEM WHICH APPARENTLY WAS INTENDED TO PERIPHERAL USE DOES HAVE CAPABILITY, AS WE READ IT NOW, AT PRESENT TIME, REFLECTING INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES, AGAINST U.S. AND THEREFORE, IT PLAYS A ROLE IN ANY NEGOTIATION OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. IT MUST BE DEALT WITH.

Q: AND THIS EMERGED SINCE VLADIVOSTOK. SIMPLY ON BACK-FIRE OR WAS IT....

SCHLESINGER: NO. NO. NO. BACKFIRE ESTIMATES I THINK HAVE BEEN CONCURRED IN AND REFINED BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SINCE VLADIVOSTOK, BUT IT HAS NOT EMERGED SINCE VLADIVOSTOK. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

Q: IS THERE A NEW BACKFIRE SINCE THAT TIME? I MEAN, AN IMPROVED ENGINE?

SCHLESINGER: NO, SIR.

Q: IT IS AIR REFUELING YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

SCHLESINGER: NO, SIR. IT IS NOT AIR REFUELING.

Q: WHY DOES IT SUDDENLY HAVE LONGER RANGE UNDER INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES?

SCHLESINGER: IT DOES NOT HAVE LONGER RANGE. AS I SAY, ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN REFINED. DIVERGENCES IN ESTIMATES

HAVE NOW BEEN CONCURRED IN ON THE PART OF VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Q: CAN IT GET TO U.S. AND BACK TO SOVIET UNION?

SCHLESINGER: IT CANNOT.

Q: CAN IT LAND IN CUBA? IT CANNOT, YOU SAY?

SCHLESINGER: IT CANNOT GO A TWO-WAY TRIP. WELL, IT COULD REACH CERTAIN PARTS OF THE U.S., YES, INDEED. OR PERHAPS NORTHWESTERN PART OF U.S. BUT FOR GENERAL MISSION IT WOULD NOT BE A FULL TWO-WAY TRIP COVERING ALL PARTS OF U.S.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID THAT CRUISE MISSILE WAS RAISED AS AN ISSUE AFTER VLADIVOSTOK. AS I RECALL, DR. KISSINGER RETURNED AFTER VLADIVOSTOK AND SAID THAT QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED, AND THAT A 600 KILOMETER LIMIT WAS SET BY THEIR UNDERSTANDING.

SCHLESINGER: I THINK THAT AFTER VLADIVOSTOK THERE WAS SOME DEGREE OF OBSCURITY WHETHER INDEED AID MEMOIRE APPLIED TO BALLISTIC MISSILES OR INCLUDED MISSILES IN GENERAL.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, YOUR STATEMENT THAT BACKFIRE CANNOT REACH U.S. -- I'D LIKE TO CLARIFY THAT BECAUSE I THINK IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

CONFLICTS WITH INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS THAT IS BEING PRESENTED BY YOUR OFFICE.

SCHLESINGER: I HOPE NOT. WHAT I SAID NOW -- LET ME REPEAT -- IT CAN REACH PARTS OF U.S. ON A TWO-WAY MISSION. IT CANNOT COVER ENTIRE U. S. ON A TYPICAL TWO-WAY MISSION.

Q: WITH REFUELING?

SCHLESINGER: WITH REFUELING YOU COULD DO THAT, SURE. NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.

Q: THERE IS NO INDICATION THEY ARE DEVELOPING TANKERS, IS THERE?

SCHLESINGER: THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME THAT THERE IS A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN TANKER AREA. SUCH AN INDICATION, OF COURSE, WOULD ALTER PRESENT ASSESSMENT REGARDING INTENDED USE OF BACKFIRE FOR PERIPHERAL MISSION.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, YOU COMMENTED BEFORE THAT YOU DID NOT CARE TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT BECAUSE OF

DELICACY AND A DEARTH OF INFORMATION. ARE WE IN SAME SITUATION AS DEFENSE DEPT WAS NOT INFORMED OF PERSHING DEAL, THAT WE ARE NOT NOW INFORMED....

SCHLESINGER: NO SIR. I JUST, I HAVE NOT INFORMED MYSELF ON THAT SUBJECT. THERE IS NO REASON I COULD NOT INQUIRE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN REQUESTS AND WHAT THOSE PRECISE REQUESTS ARE AND IF I HAD, I SHOULD NOT RESPOND.

Q: BUT YOU DON'T FEEL DEFENSE DEPT HAS BEEN KEPT IN DARK ON ANY

SCHLESINGER: NO, SIR. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, IN CONNECTION WITH STATEMENT YOU MADE ABOUT SALT AND TWO ITEMS, BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILE, IS IT YOUR VIEW, OR VIEW OF DEPARTMENT THAT AN ALL-OUT DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILE IS AN UNAVOIDABLE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY OF U.S. IN SPITE OF FACT THAT THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 251414 TOSEC 160239

ARE UNVERIFIABLE AND COULD VERY WELL DAMAGE FUTURE SALT NEGOTIATIONS?

SCHLESINGER: I THINK THAT ANSWER TO THAT IS, I WOULD CHOOSE OTHER WORDS THAN ONES YOU HAVE USED IN PHRASING OF YOUR QUESTION. I THINK THAT DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILE IS DESIRABLE FROM STANDPOINT OF MILITARY POSTURE OF U.S. AND INsofar AS IT DEALS WITH CAPACITY OF BOMBERS TO PENE-TRATE AGAINST A VERY FORMIDABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM DEPLOYED BY SOVIET UNION IN MIDDLE 1980'S, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THAT FUNCTION.

BUT I SHOULD STRESS THAT A MAJOR ROLE FOR CRUISE MISSILE CONTINUES TO BE IN AUGMENTATION OF OUR CONVENTIONAL FORCE POSTURE RATHER THAN STRATEGIC ARMS ELEMENT THAT HAS RE-CEIVED SO MUCH STRESS IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS CONFERENCES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE251414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RANDERSON:AVW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0539
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751031/aaaabbry.tel
Line Count: 264
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTRACTS FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER OCTOBER 20 - PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: SOPN, PARM, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SCHLESINGER, JAMES R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006